September 16, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers: 98N-1230
                     96P-0418
                     97P-0197
          Ban Forced Molting of HENS

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is encouraging to hear you are requesting public comments on reducing egg borne diseases due to the many illnesses and deaths caused by contaminated eggs. Therefore, we consider the above-referenced Dockets to be of great importance.

We would like to offer the following important suggestions that the FDA should, and must do:

➢ Ban the forced molting of laying hens because forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs;

➢ Prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems;

➢ Enforce the banning of farm practices, such as forced molting, that not only is unduly cruel and extremely stressful to the hen, but also presents a health problem to human health;

Forced molting, (which intentionally deprives hens of both food and water for up to 14 days) forces millions of hens to manipulate egg production. **This practice is extremely cruel.** Upon learning of this barbaric practice, we have not, nor intend to buy eggs until this greedy matter is resolved.

Since the FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting this petition should be granted without further delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our, hopefully, helpful and decisive opinions.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Chiodo
4973 Young Drive
Pittsburgh, PA, 15227

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98N 1230
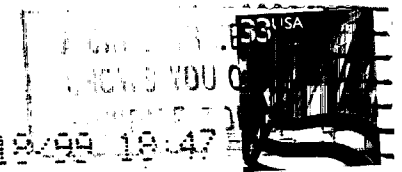
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C681

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C682
                                   96P-0418/C681

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